through 10/31/2002, Approved for U.S. Patent and Trademark Office S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERC paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no pe are required to respond to a collection of information unles displays a valid OMB control number 09/752,683 Application Number REQUEST January 3, 2001 Filing Date **CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE)** YAMAMOTO First Named Inventor TRANSMITTAL 2673 Subsection (b) of 35 U.S.C. § 132, effective on May 29, 2000, Group Art Unit provides for continued examination of an utility or plant application filed on or after June 8, 1995 Shapiro, Leonid Examiner Name See The American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA). 2589-9 Attomey Docket Number This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. §1.114 of the above-identified application. NOTE: 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 is effective on May 29, 2000. If the above-identified application was filed prior to May 29, 2000, applicant may wish to consider filing a continued prosecution application (CPA) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(d) (PTO/SB/29) instead of a RCE to be eligible for the patent term adjustment provisions of the AIPA. See Changes to Application Examination and Provisional Application Practice, Final Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 50092 (Aug. 16, 2000); Interim Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 14865 (mar. 20, 2000), 1233 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 47 (Apr. 11, 2000), which established RCE practice. 1. Submission required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 a. Previously submitted Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 previously filed on (Any unentered amendment(s) referred to above will be entered) Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on RECEIVE I I Other b. X Enclosed Amendment in RCE (13pgs) Technology Center 2600 Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s) Information Disclosure Statement (IDS), PTO-1449 and Reference Other Correspondence Address Indication Form 2. Miscellaneous a. Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 35 C.F.R. § 1.103(c) for months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(i) required) b. Other 3. Fees The RCE fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e) is required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 when the RCE is filed. a. 

The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 14-1140 03/05/2003 MRHMED1 00000030 09752683 RCE fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e) Extension of time fee (37 C.F.R. §§ 1.136 and 1.17) 01 FC:1801 iii. Other 750.00 np Check in the amount of \$750.00 for RCE Filing Fee is enclosed herewith. c. Payment by credit card (For PTO-2038 enclosed) SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED Joseph A. Rhoa 37.515 Name (Print Type) Registration No. (Attorney/Agent) March 3, 2003 Signature Date CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner For Patents, Box RCE, Washington, DC 20231, or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on:

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 0.2 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND Fees and Completed Forms to the following address: Assistant commissioner for Patents, Box RCE, Washington, DC 20231.

Date

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